



PHOTOGRAPHY/ TOM SMART

James Mason, a veteran administrator, is charged with directing the country's public-health service.

Utah's ex-health chief still has hands full

By JoAnn Jacobsen-Wells

Deseret News medical writer 2-5-90



**WHERE &
WHENCE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In 1979 Dr. James O. Mason, newly appointed executive director of the Utah Department of Health, faced a state health program crippled by overzealous budget cutting.

The University of Utah physician had his

hands full.

Eleven years later, he still does. Only on a much larger scale.

As assistant secretary for health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Mason is now charged with directing the country's public-health service. That includes about 40,000 employees, a budget of almost \$15 billion and the country's seven pre-eminent health agencies.

The national Centers for Disease Control; National Institutes of Health; Food and Drug Administration; Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration; Indian Health Services; Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry; and the Health Resources and Services Administration are under his supervision.

And the challenges they face — smoking, AIDS, drug abuse, innovative re-

search, infant mortality, uninsurable citizens — are his.

Yet Mason, a veteran administrator, has masterfully weathered his first year as assistant secretary — a post that he kiddingly reports "has an average tenure of 20 months."

Except for the whitening of Mason's hair, the 60-year-old Utahn (and father of seven) doesn't look any older than he did 11 years ago. Or hassled.

Nor is he less compassionate toward America's sick and needy.

But the soft-spoken physician-administrator is more deliberate in speaking his mind, regardless of the controversy. As a

Please see MASON on B2

ny, Cairo American
West Point; Keyan
School, Air Force

s, Orem, Mountain
aval Academy; Jer-
Springville, Spring-
West Germany, Air

er, Park City, Park
int; and Lynn Win-
intah High School,

ake from New York
e city is clean and
e Convention and

Q. Should travel restrictions be im-
posed on HIV-infected persons?

A. "I believe there should be free

anything about the disarray, state
legislators, county commissioners,
mayors are going to have to be will-
ing to put the needed resources into
public health. It will pay off."

2 compact cars collide head on in S.L., injuring 2 men, woman

Three people were injured Sunday night in a head-on collision of two compact cars at 1190 S. 300 East.

Police Lt. Tom Brown said a northbound car driven by Viktor Dmitriyev, 34, Salt Lake City, crossed over into the southbound lane of traffic and hit a car driven by Robert L. Roybal, 40, also of Salt

Lake City. The accident occurred at 6:20 p.m.

Dmitriyev, a Russian emigre, was taken to LDS Hospital, where he was listed in serious condition early Monday. Roybal and his daughter, Crystal, 18, a passenger, were treated at Holy Cross Hospital and released. The cause of the accident is under investigation, Brown said.

School districts already a-
quired to levy 23.28 mills. T-
come from these mills is equ-
statewide. In addition, each c-
has a 10-mill leeway that it can-
voters will go along. The sta-
created an incentive by guaran-
that each of the first two voted
will provide \$20 per student
state supplements the revenue
that amount if income from
levy falls below that level.

Bangerter's proposal would
local school boards the opti-
passing a 2-mill leeway without
ing the question to voters. The

BOARDS

Continued from B1

"We find people who fit the
Ireland said. "Where they live
material."

All seven positions on the bo-
appeals are filled by men. On-
lives in south Provo.

The Arts Council is also fill-
people who have certain speci-
regardless of where they live
land said. Seven of the 15 mem-
of the Arts Council are women
14 live in north Provo — 12
northeast quadrant. One woman
the Arts Council lives in Orem
works at Brigham Young Univer-

Geographic representation
portant for some boards, how-
such as the Planning Comm-
and Library Board, Jenkins sa-

In fact, the Library Board h-
most equally distributed repre-
of any board in the city: the
member board is half male, ha-
male; four members live in
southwest sector, one in the s-
east, two in the northwest and
in the northeast.

The Planning Commission is
equally divided. It has two f-

TEMPERATURES

LOCAL-UTAH

	High	Low	Prec.
Salt Lake City	46	28	
Blanding	39	24	
Cedar City	41	13	
Green River	45	13	
Logan	40	15	
Ogden	42	23	
Orem	42	19	
Price	30	20	
Richfield	44	15	
St. George	56		
Tooele	45	23	
Wendover	39	22	

NATIONAL

	Max	Lo	Pr.	Sky
Albuquerque	44	28		clr
Anchorage	5	-3		clr
Atlanta	69	37	.37	cdy
Boise	40	22	.05	sno
Boston	33	16	.77	cdy
Casper	47	22		clr
Cheyenne	52	23		cdy
Chicago	41	29		cdy
Dallas	60	33		cdy
Denver	58	25		clr
Detroit	31	26		cdy
El Paso	62	40		clr
Honolulu	82	70		r'n
Las Vegas	52	35		cdy
Los Angeles	61	46	.61	cdy
Miami	78	70	.01	clr
New Orleans	63	44		cdy
New York	40	24	.08	cdy
Phoenix	69	46		clr
Portland	48	41	.04	r'n
Reno	39	19		sno
St. Louis	44	30		r'n



atures
noon Tuesday

PT. CLOUDY CLOUDY

INSURE

Ridgetop wind moderate
20s. Low teens.

C. 364-1581; Provo 374-
-2362; Logan 752-4146;
Brian H. 677-2012.

y roads clear and dry, I-15
Conditions: 964-6000 (1-
creation-Ski: 521-8102.

D

TIMP

Continued from B1

She said center officials have pres-
sured her son for the past few
months to pay for his own medicine
and to pay for services he has re-
ceived in the past few years.

"They can't force him to do that.
This is a public service, and they are
supposed to take care of him. Last
month they really put the pressure
on him. I was under the impression
he fell under a government-funded
program."

No one realizes the damage the
Timp scandal caused, she said. The
center should have been able to up-
date housing and programs a long
time ago.

"All of us parents have spent 10 to
20 years trying to get a diagnosis for
our kids. Finally Timp got a program
going, and it's terrible this has to
happen. It is like somebody pulled
the rug out from under our feet."

Barrows' son Dale, 30, has been a
client at the center for 13 years.

Eichler said it is the center's re-
sponsibility to take care of the pa-
tients, whether or not they can pay
for services, and he doesn't believe
there will be a change.

"The whole rat's nest of the men-
tal-health system is not well-under-

ADAMS